

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 IO-14 ISO-00 L-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01 SCEM-02 DRC-01 EUR-25

SAJ-01 /129 W

----- 068250

R 081447Z NOV 73

FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3623

INFO AEC GERMANTOWN

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L IAEA VIENNA 09240

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IAEA, TECH

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLY FOR MEXICAN POWER REACTOR

REF: (A) STATE 220032; (B) IAEA VIENNA 9160

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. AGENCY ADVISES THAT ONLY INFORMATION THEY HAVE FROM MEXICAN AUTHORITIES INDICATES THAT FIRST CORE FOR LAGUNA VERDE PLANT WILL BE REQUIRED BETWEEN JUNE AND SEPTEMBER 1976, AND THAT THIS WAS CONFIRMED ORALLY BY MEXICAN REPS DURING GENERAL CONFERENCE. EMB MEXICO MAY WISH OBTAIN CURRENT READING ON THIS POINT.
2. BELIEVE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSED PARA 1(B) REF A MIGHT BE OBTAINED MORE ACCURATELY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY BY EMB MEXICO.
3. MISSION WILL DISCUSS PROPOSED CONTRACTUAL MECHANISM MENTIONED PARA 2, REF A WITH APPROPRIATE AGENCY LEGAL STAFF (STEIN AND HA VINH) WHEN THEY RETURN TO VIENNA LATE NOVEMBER/EARLY DECEMBER.

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4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE RESPONSE PARAS 1 AND 3 REF B

SOONEST, IN ORDER TO SEND OUR FORMAL RESPONSE TO DG'S
SEPTEMBER 13 LETTER. END UNCLASSIFIED

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

5. AS MATTER OF INTEREST, MISOFF WAS INFORMED PRIVATELY
SUBSEQUENT TO GENERAL CONFERENCE ON SEPARATE OCCASIONS
BY THREE RESPONSIBLE AGENCY STAFF MEMBERS THAT SOVIETS
HAD PROVIDED VERY ATTRACTIVE OFFER TO MEXICAN REPS
DURING GENERAL CONFERENCE (AEC/DEPT WILL RECALL THAT
MEXICANS HAD REQUESTED MEETINGS WITH ALL POTENTIAL
SUPPLIERS), WHICH, IN THEIR OPINION, PUT U.S. AT CLEAR
DISADVANTAGE IF MEXICANS ARE INDEED SERIOUS IN CONSIDER-
ING OFFERS FROM OTHER SUPPLIERS. WE WOULD NOT RPT NOT
BE SURPRISED IF MEXICANS WERE HEDGING THEIR BETS ON
QUESTION OF FUEL SUPPLY, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW UNCERTAINTY
CREATED BY AEC SHIFT OF GROUND-RULES FOR CONTRACT
EXECUTION DEADLINE (SEE PARA 8 IAEA VIENNA 8119), NOTWITH-
STANDING INDICATIONS THAT AEC IS CONSIDERING MODIFICATIONS
OF FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE, WHICH WOULD HAVE EFFECT OF
EXTENDING DEADLINE IN MEXICAN CASE BEYOND DEC. 31, 1973.
WHETHER THEY ARE SIMPLY HEDGING, HOWEVER, OR ARE SERIOUSLY
INTERESTED IN DOING BUSINESS WITH SOVIETS IS QUESTION
ABOUT WHICH WE ARE NOT RPT NOT IN POSITION TO JUDGE.
EMB MEXICO MAY WISH TO PROBE MEXICANS A BIT ON THIS TO
TRY TO ASCERTAIN THEIR CURRENT INTENTIONS. END CONFIDENTIAL.
PORTER

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NNN

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